

# Calendar No. 322

116TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 881

[Report No. 116–171]

To improve understanding and forecasting of space weather events, and for other purposes.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 26, 2019

Mr. PETERS (for himself and Mr. GARDNER) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

DECEMBER 11, 2019

Reported by Mr. WICKER, without amendment

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# A BILL

To improve understanding and forecasting of space weather events, and for other purposes.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-  
2 tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

**3 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Space Weather Re-  
5 search and Forecasting Act”.

1     **SEC. 2. SPACE WEATHER.**

2         (a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle VI of title 51, United  
3 States Code, is amended by adding after chapter 605 the  
4 following:

5         **“CHAPTER 607—SPACE WEATHER**

“Sec.  
“60701. Space weather.  
“60702. Observations and forecasting.  
“60703. Research and technology.  
“60704. Space weather data.

6         **“§ 60701. Space weather**

7             “(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following find-  
8 ings:

9                 “(1) Space weather events pose a significant  
10 threat to ground-based and space-based critical in-  
11 frastructure, modern technological systems, and hu-  
12 mans working in space.

13                 “(2) The effects of severe space weather events  
14 on the electric power grid, satellites and satellite  
15 communications and information, aviation oper-  
16 ations, astronauts living and working in space, and  
17 space-based position, navigation, and timing systems  
18 could have significant societal, economic, national se-  
19 curity, and health impacts.

20                 “(3) Earth and space observations provide cru-  
21 cial data necessary to predict and warn about space  
22 weather events.

1           “(4) Clear roles and accountability of Federal  
2 departments and agencies are critical for an efficient  
3 and effective response to threats posed by space  
4 weather.

5           “(5) Space weather observation and forecasting  
6 are essential for the success of space exploration.

7           “(6) In October 2015, the National Science and  
8 Technology Council published a National Space  
9 Weather Strategy and a National Space Weather  
10 Action Plan seeking to integrate national space  
11 weather efforts and add new capabilities to meet in-  
12 creasing demand for space weather information.

13         “(b) FEDERAL AGENCY ROLES.—

14           “(1) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following  
15 findings:

16           “(A) The National Oceanic and Atmos-  
17 pheric Administration—

18           “(i) provides operational space weath-  
19 er forecasting and monitoring for civil ap-  
20 plications;

21           “(ii) maintains ground and space-  
22 based assets to provide observations need-  
23 ed for forecasting, prediction, and warn-  
24 ings;

1                         “(iii) provides research to support op-  
2                         eration responsibilities; and

3                         “(iv) develops requirements for space  
4                         weather forecasting technologies and  
5                         science.

6                         “(B) The Department of Defense provides  
7                         operational space weather forecasting, moni-  
8                         toring, and research for the department’s  
9                         unique missions and applications.

10                         “(C) The National Aeronautics and Space  
11                         Administration provides increased under-  
12                         standing of the fundamental physics of the  
13                         Sun-Earth system through space-based observa-  
14                         tions and modeling, develops new space-based  
15                         technologies and missions, and monitors space  
16                         weather for NASA’s space missions.

17                         “(D) The National Science Foundation  
18                         provides increased understanding of the Sun-  
19                         Earth system through ground-based measure-  
20                         ments, technologies, and modeling.

21                         “(E) The Department of the Interior col-  
22                         lects, distributes, and archives operational  
23                         ground-based magnetometer data in the United  
24                         States and its territories, works with the inter-  
25                         national community to improve global geo-

1 physical monitoring, and develops crustal con-  
2 ductivity models to assess and mitigate risk  
3 from space weather induced electric ground cur-  
4 rents.

5 “(F) The Federal Aviation Administration  
6 provides operational requirements for space  
7 weather services in support of aviation and for  
8 coordination of these requirements with the  
9 International Civil Aviation Organization, inte-  
10 grates space weather data and products into the  
11 Next Generation Air Transportation System.

12 “(2) OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
13 POLICY.—The Director of the Office of Science and  
14 Technology Policy shall—

15 “(A) coordinate the development and im-  
16 plementation of Federal Government activities  
17 to improve the ability of the United States to  
18 prepare, avoid, mitigate, respond to, and re-  
19 cover from potentially devastating impacts of  
20 space weather events; and

21 “(B) coordinate the activities of the space  
22 weather interagency working group established  
23 under subsection (c).

24 “(c) SPACE WEATHER INTERAGENCY WORKING  
25 GROUP.—The National Science and Technology Council

1 shall establish an interagency working group on space  
2 weather (referred to in this section as the ‘interagency  
3 working group’) to continue coordination of executive  
4 branch efforts to understand, prepare, coordinate, and  
5 plan for space weather.

6       “(d) MEMBERSHIP.—In order to understand and re-  
7 spond to the adverse effects of space weather, the inter-  
8 agency working group shall leverage capabilities across  
9 participating Federal agencies, including—

10       “(1) the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Ad-  
11 ministration;

12       “(2) the National Aeronautics and Space Ad-  
13 ministration;

14       “(3) the National Science Foundation;

15       “(4) the Department of Defense;

16       “(5) the Department of the Interior;

17       “(6) the Department of Homeland Security;

18       “(7) the Department of Energy;

19       “(8) the Department of Transportation, includ-  
20 ing the Federal Aviation Administration; and

21       “(9) the Department of State.

22       “(e) INTERAGENCY AGREEMENTS.—

23       “(1) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of  
24 Congress that the interagency collaboration between  
25 the National Aeronautics and Space Administration

1 and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Adminis-  
2 tration on terrestrial weather observations pro-  
3 vides—

4 “(A) an effective mechanism for improving  
5 weather and climate data collection while avoid-  
6 ing unnecessary duplication of capabilities  
7 across Federal agencies; and

8 “(B) an agency collaboration model that  
9 could benefit space weather observations.

10 “(2) INTERAGENCY AGREEMENTS.—The Ad-  
11 ministrator of the National Aeronautics and Space  
12 Administration and the Administrator of the Na-  
13 tional Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration shall  
14 enter into one or more interagency agreements pro-  
15 viding for cooperation and collaboration in the devel-  
16 opment of space weather spacecraft, instruments,  
17 and technologies in accordance with this chapter.

18 “(f) SPACE WEATHER ADVISORY GROUP.—

19 “(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The interagency work-  
20 ing group shall establish a space weather advisory  
21 group (in this chapter referred to as the ‘advisory  
22 group’) to facilitate communication and knowledge  
23 transfer among Federal Government agencies, the  
24 academic community, the commercial sector, and  
25 space weather end users.

1           “(2) COMPOSITION.—The advisory group shall  
2       be composed of not more than 15 members ap-  
3       pointed by the interagency working group, of  
4       whom—

5           “(A) 5 members shall be representatives of  
6       the academic community;

7           “(B) 5 members shall be representatives of  
8       the commercial sector; and

9           “(C) 5 members shall be nongovernmental  
10      representatives of the space weather end user  
11      community.

12          “(3) CHAIR.—Not later than 30 days after the  
13      date on which the last member of the advisory group  
14      is appointed under paragraph (2), the interagency  
15      working group shall appoint 1 member as the Chair  
16      of the advisory group.

17          “(4) TERMS.—The length of the term of each  
18      member of the advisory group shall be 3 years be-  
19      ginning on the date on which the member is ap-  
20      pointed.

21          “(5) TERM LIMITS.—

22           “(A) IN GENERAL.—A member of the advi-  
23       sory group may not serve on the advisory group  
24       for more than 2 consecutive terms.

1                 “(B) CHAIR.—A member of the advisory  
2                 group may not serve as the Chair of the advi-  
3                 sory group for more than 2 terms, regardless of  
4                 whether the terms are consecutive.

5                 “(6) DUTIES.—The duties of the advisory  
6                 group shall be as follows:

7                     “(A) To facilitate advances in the space  
8                 weather enterprise of the United States.

9                     “(B) To improve the ability of the United  
10                 States to prepare for, avoid, mitigate, respond  
11                 to, and recover from space weather events.

12                     “(C) To enable the coordination of re-  
13                 search to operations and operations to research,  
14                 as described in section 60703(d).

15                     “(D) To advise the interagency working  
16                 group with respect to the development and im-  
17                 plementation of the integrated strategy devel-  
18                 oped under section 60702(b) and subsequent  
19                 updates and reevaluations.

20                 **“§ 60702. Observations and forecasting**

21                 “(a) POLICY.—It is the policy of the United States  
22                 to establish and sustain a baseline capability for space  
23                 weather observations.

24                 “(b) INTEGRATED STRATEGY.—

1                 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the Office  
2                 of Science and Technology Policy, in coordination  
3                 with the Administrator of the National Oceanic and  
4                 Atmospheric Administration, the Administrator of  
5                 the National Aeronautics and Space Administration,  
6                 the Director of the National Science Foundation,  
7                 and the Secretary of Defense, and in consultation  
8                 with the academic community, the commercial sec-  
9                 tor, and the advisory group shall develop an inte-  
10                 grated strategy for solar, solar wind, and geospace  
11                 observations beyond the lifetime of current assets  
12                 that considers the provision of solar, solar wind, and  
13                 geospace measurements and other space weather  
14                 measurements—

15                 “(A) essential to space weather fore-  
16                 casting; and

17                 “(B) important for scientific purposes.

18                 “(2) CONSIDERATIONS.—In developing the  
19                 strategy under paragraph (1), the Director of the  
20                 Office of Science and Technology Policy shall—

21                 “(A) consider small satellite options,  
22                 hosted payloads, commercial options, inter-  
23                 national options, and prize authority; and

24                 “(B) leverage and build on work conducted  
25                 before the date of the enactment of this chapter

1           by the National Science and Technology Coun-  
2           cil with respect to space weather.

3         “(c) CRITICAL OBSERVATIONS.—In order to sustain  
4         current space-based observational capabilities, the Admin-  
5         istrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Adminis-  
6         tration shall—

7           “(1) in cooperation with the European Space  
8         Agency and other international and interagency  
9         partners, maintain operations of the Solar and  
10        Heliospheric Observatory/Large Angle and Spec-  
11        trometric Coronagraph (referred to in this section as  
12        ‘SOHO/LASCO’) for as long as the satellite con-  
13        tinues to deliver quality observations; and

14           “(2) prioritize the reception of LASCO data.

15         “(d) ADDITIONAL CAPABILITY FOR SOLAR IMAG-  
16         ING.—

17           “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the  
18         National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
19         shall secure reliable secondary capability for near  
20         real-time coronal mass ejection imagery.

21           “(2) OPTIONS.—The Administrator of the Na-  
22         tional Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, in  
23         coordination with the Secretary of Defense and the  
24         Administrator of the National Aeronautics and  
25         Space Administration, shall develop options to build

1 and deploy one or more instruments for near real-  
2 time coronal mass ejection imagery.

3 “(3) CONSIDERATIONS.—In developing options  
4 under paragraph (2), the Administrator of the Na-  
5 tional Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration shall  
6 consider commercial solutions, prize authority, aca-  
7 demic and international partnerships, microsatellites,  
8 ground-based instruments, and opportunities to de-  
9 ploy the instrument or instruments as a secondary  
10 payload on an upcoming planned launch.

11 “(4) COSTS.—In implementing paragraph (1),  
12 the Administrator of the National Oceanic and At-  
13 mospheric Administration shall prioritize a cost-ef-  
14 fective solution.

15 “(5) OPERATIONAL PLANNING.—The Adminis-  
16 trator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Ad-  
17 ministration shall develop an operational contingency  
18 plan to provide continuous space weather forecasting  
19 in the event of a SOHO/LASCO failure.

20 “(6) BRIEFING.—Not later than 120 days after  
21 the date of enactment of the Space Weather Re-  
22 search and Forecasting Act, the Administrator of  
23 the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administra-  
24 tion shall provide a briefing to the Committee on  
25 Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Sen-

1       ate and the Committee on Science, Space, and Tech-  
2       nology of the House of Representatives on the op-  
3       tions for building and deploying the instrument or  
4       instruments described in paragraph (2) and the  
5       operational contingency plan developed under para-  
6       graph (5).

7       “(e) FOLLOW-ON SPACE-BASED OBSERVATIONS.—  
8       The Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmos-  
9       pheric Administration, in coordination with the Secretary  
10      of Defense, shall develop requirements and a plan for fol-  
11      low-on space-based observations for operational purposes,  
12      in accordance with the integrated strategy developed  
13      under subsection (b).

14       “(f) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the  
15      date of enactment of the Space Weather Research and  
16      Forecasting Act, the Director of the Office of Science and  
17      Technology Policy shall submit to the Committee on Com-  
18      merce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the  
19      Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the  
20      House of Representatives a report on the integrated strat-  
21      egy under subsection (b), including the plans for follow-  
22      on space-based observations under subsection (e).

23       “(g) GROUND-BASED OBSERVATIONS.—The Na-  
24      tional Science Foundation, the United States Geological

1 Survey, the Air Force, and where practicable in support  
2 of the Air Force, the Navy shall each—

3           “(1) maintain and improve, as necessary and  
4           advisable, ground-based observations of the Sun to  
5           help meet the priorities identified in section  
6 60703(a); and

7           “(2) provide space weather data by means of its  
8           set of ground-based facilities, including radars,  
9           lidars, magnetometers, radio receivers, aurora and  
10          airglow imagers, spectrometers, interferometers, and  
11          solar observatories.

12        “(h) GROUND-BASED OBSERVATIONS DATA.—The  
13 National Science Foundation shall—

14           “(1) make available to the public key data  
15           streams from the platforms described in subsection  
16           (g) for research and to support space weather model  
17           development;

18           “(2) develop experimental models for scientific  
19           purposes; and

20           “(3) support the transition of the experimental  
21           models to operations where appropriate.

22        **“§ 60703. Research and technology**

23        “(a) USER NEEDS.—

24           “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the  
25           National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration,

1       the Secretary of the Air Force, and where practicable in support of the Air Force, the Secretary of the Navy, in conjunction with the heads of other relevant Federal agencies, shall conduct a comprehensive survey to identify and prioritize the needs of space weather forecast users, including space weather data and space weather forecast data needed to improve services and inform research priorities and technology needs.

10       “(2) CONTENTS.—In conducting the comprehensive survey under paragraph (1), the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Secretary of the Air Force, and where practicable in support of the Air Force, the Secretary of the Navy, at a minimum, shall—

16           “(A) consider the goals for forecast lead time, accuracy, coverage, timeliness, data rate, and data quality for space weather observations;

20           “(B) identify opportunities to address the needs identified under paragraph (1) through collaborations with academia, the private sector, and the international community;

1               “(C) identify opportunities for new tech-  
2               nologies and instrumentation to address the  
3               needs identified under paragraph (1); and

4               “(D) publish a report on the findings  
5               under subparagraphs (A) through (C).

6               “(3) PUBLICATION.—Not later than 1 year  
7               after the date of the enactment of the Space Weather-  
8               Research and Forecasting Act, and every 3 years  
9               thereafter, the Administrator of the National Oce-  
10               anic and Atmospheric Administration, the Secretary  
11               of the Air Force, and where practicable in support  
12               of the Air Force, the Secretary of the Navy, shall—

13               “(A) make the results of the comprehen-  
14               sive survey publicly available; and

15               “(B) notify the Committee on Commerce,  
16               Science, and Transportation of the Senate and  
17               the Committee on Science, Space, and Tech-  
18               nology of the House of Representatives of the  
19               publication under subparagraph (A).

20               “(b) RESEARCH ACTIVITIES.—

21               “(1) BASIC RESEARCH.—The Director of the  
22               National Science Foundation, the Administrator of  
23               the National Aeronautics and Space Administration,  
24               and the Secretary of Defense shall continue to carry  
25               out basic research activities on heliophysics, geo-

1 space science, and space weather and support com-  
2 petitive, merit-based, peer-reviewed proposals for re-  
3 search, modeling, and monitoring of space weather  
4 and its impacts, including science goals outlined in  
5 Solar and Space Physics Decadal surveys conducted  
6 by the National Academy of Sciences.

7       “(2) MULTIDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH.—

8           “(A) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that the  
9 multidisciplinary nature of solar and space  
10 physics creates funding challenges that require  
11 coordination across scientific disciplines and  
12 Federal agencies.

13           “(B) MULTIDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH.—  
14 The Director of the National Science Founda-  
15 tion, the Administrator of the National Oceanic  
16 and Atmospheric Administration, and the Ad-  
17 ministrator of the National Aeronautics and  
18 Space Administration shall pursue multidisci-  
19 plinary research in subjects that further our  
20 understanding of solar physics, space physics,  
21 and space weather.

22           “(C) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the  
23 sense of Congress that the Administrator of the  
24 National Aeronautics and Space Administration  
25 and the Director of the National Science Foun-

1 dation should support competitively awarded  
2 Heliophysics Science Centers.

3 “(c) SCIENCE MISSIONS.—The Administrator of the  
4 National Aeronautics and Space Administration shall seek  
5 to implement missions that meet the science objectives  
6 identified in Solar and Space Physics Decadal surveys con-  
7 ducted by the National Academy of Sciences.

8 “(d) RESEARCH TO OPERATIONS; OPERATIONS TO  
9 RESEARCH.—

10 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the  
11 National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the  
12 Director of the National Science Foundation, the  
13 Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmos-  
14 pheric Administration, the Secretary of the Air  
15 Force, and where practicable in support of the Air  
16 Force, the Secretary of the Navy, shall—

17 “(A) develop a formal mechanism to tran-  
18 sition National Aeronautics and Space Adminis-  
19 tration, National Science Foundation, United  
20 States Geological Survey, Air Force, and Navy  
21 research findings, models, and capabilities, as  
22 appropriate, to National Oceanic and Atmos-  
23 pheric Administration and Department of De-  
24 fense space weather operational forecasting cen-  
25 ters; and

1                 “(B) enhance coordination between re-  
2                 search modeling centers and forecasting cen-  
3                 ters.

4                 “(2) OPERATIONAL NEEDS.—The Adminis-  
5                 trator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Ad-  
6                 ministration and the Secretary of Defense, in coordi-  
7                 nation with the Administrator of the National Aero-  
8                 nautics and Space Administration and the Director  
9                 of the National Science Foundation, shall develop a  
10                 formal mechanism to communicate the operational  
11                 needs of space weather forecasters to the research  
12                 community.

13                 “(e) TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT.—

14                 “(1) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that observa-  
15                 tions and measurements closer to the Sun or at the  
16                 Sun-Earth Lagrangian L5 point with advanced in-  
17                 strumentation would provide for more advanced  
18                 warning of space weather disturbances (as defined in  
19                 section 3(a) of the Space Weather Research and  
20                 Forecasting Act).

21                 “(2) TECHNOLOGY AND INSTRUMENTATION DE-  
22                 VELOPMENT.—The Administrator of the National  
23                 Aeronautics and Space Administration and the Di-  
24                 rector of the National Science Foundation shall sup-  
25                 port the development of technologies and instrumen-

1 tation to improve space weather forecasting lead-  
2 time and accuracy to meet the needs identified by  
3 the Administrator of the National Oceanic and At-  
4 mospheric Administration.

5 **“§ 60704. Space weather data**

6 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the Na-  
7 tional Aeronautics and Space Administration and the Di-  
8 rector of the National Science Foundation shall—

9 “(1) make space weather related data obtained  
10 for scientific research purposes available to space  
11 weather forecasters and operations centers; and

12 “(2) support model development and model ap-  
13 plications to space weather forecasting.

14 “(b) RESEARCH.—The Administrator of the National  
15 Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration shall make space  
16 weather related data obtained from operational forecasting  
17 available for scientific research.”.

18 (b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

19 (1) REPEAL OF SECTION 809.—Section 809 of  
20 the National Aeronautics and Space Administration  
21 Authorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18388) and  
22 the item relating to that section in the table of con-  
23 tents under section 1(b) of that Act (124 Stat.  
24 2806) are repealed.

1                             (2) TABLE OF CHAPTERS.—The table of chap-  
2                             ters of title 51, United States Code, is amended by  
3                             adding after the item relating to chapter 605 the fol-  
4                             lowing:

“**607. Space weather .....****60701**”.

5                             **SEC. 3. SPACE WEATHER BENCHMARKS.**

6                             (a) DEFINITION OF SPACE WEATHER DISTURB-  
7                             ANCE.—In this section, the term “space weather disturb-  
8                             ance” includes geo-electric fields, ionizing radiation, iono-  
9                             spheric disturbances, solar radio bursts, and upper atmos-  
10                             phere expansion.

11                             (b) BENCHMARKS.—

12                             (1) REVIEW.—The Administrator of the Na-  
13                             tional Aeronautics and Space Administration shall  
14                             offer to enter into a contract with the National  
15                             Academy of Sciences to review the report of the Na-  
16                             tional Science and Technology Council entitled  
17                             “Space Weather Phase 1 Benchmarks” and dated  
18                             June 2018.

19                             (2) UPDATES.—The space weather interagency  
20                             working group established under section 60701(c) of  
21                             title 51, United States Code, shall periodically review  
22                             and update the benchmarks described in the report  
23                             referred to in paragraph (1), as necessary, based  
24                             on—

- 1                         (A) the results of the review that para-  
2                         graph;  
3                         (B) any significant new data or advances  
4                         in scientific understanding that become avail-  
5                         able; or  
6                         (C) the evolving needs of entities impacted  
7                         by space weather disturbances.

8 **SEC. 4. PROTECTION OF CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE.**

9                         (a) DEFINITION OF SECTOR-SPECIFIC AGENCY.—In  
10                         this section, the term “sector-specific agency” has the  
11                         meaning given the term in Presidential Policy Directive—  
12                         21 of February 12, 2013 (Critical Infrastructure Security  
13                         and Resilience), or any successor.

14                         (b) SPACE WEATHER HAZARDS.—For purposes of  
15                         this section, the Administrator of the National Oceanic  
16                         and Atmospheric Administration, in consultation with the  
17                         heads of other relevant Federal agencies, shall provide in-  
18                         formation about space weather hazards to the Secretary  
19                         of Homeland Security.

20                         (c) CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE.—The Secretary of  
21                         Homeland Security, in consultation with sector-specific  
22                         agencies, the Administrator of the National Oceanic and  
23                         Atmospheric Administration, and the heads of other rel-  
24                         evant agencies, shall—

1                         (1) include, in meeting national critical infra-  
2                         structure reporting requirements, an assessment of  
3                         the vulnerability of critical infrastructure to space  
4                         weather events, as described by the space weather  
5                         benchmarks referred to in section 3(b); and

6                         (2) support critical infrastructure providers in  
7                         managing the risks and impacts associated with  
8                         space weather.

9                         (d) PROHIBITION ON NEW REGULATORY AUTHOR-  
10 ITY.—Nothing in subsection (c) may be construed to grant  
11 the Secretary of Homeland Security any authority to pro-  
12 mulgate regulations that was not in effect on the day be-  
13 fore the date of enactment of this Act.

14 **SEC. 5. PROTECTION OF NATIONAL SECURITY ASSETS.**

15                         (a) IN GENERAL.—The National Security Council, in  
16 consultation with the Office of the Director of National  
17 Intelligence, the Secretary of Defense, and the heads of  
18 other relevant Federal agencies, shall—

19                         (1) assess the vulnerability of the national secu-  
20 rity community to space weather events, as described  
21 by the space weather benchmarks referred to in sec-  
22 tion 3(b); and

23                         (2) develop national security mechanisms to  
24 protect national security assets from space weather  
25 threats.

1       (b) COOPERATION.—The Secretary of Defense, in  
2 consultation with the heads of other relevant Federal  
3 agencies, shall provide information about space weather  
4 hazards to the National Security Council, Director of Na-  
5 tional Intelligence, and heads of Defense Agencies for pur-  
6 poses of this section.

7 **SEC. 6. ENSURING THE SAFETY OF CIVIL AVIATION.**

8       (a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the Federal  
9 Aviation Administration, in consultation with the heads of  
10 other relevant Federal agencies, shall—

11           (1) assess the safety implications and vulner-  
12 ability of the national airspace system by space  
13 weather events, as described by the space weather  
14 benchmarks referred to in section 3(b);

15           (2) assess methods to mitigate the safety impli-  
16 cations and effects of space weather on aviation  
17 communication and navigation systems, satellite and  
18 ground-based navigation systems, and potential  
19 health effects of radiation exposure; and

20           (3) assess options for incorporating space  
21 weather into operational training for pilots, cabin  
22 crew, dispatchers, air traffic controllers, meteorolo-  
23 gists, and engineers.

24       (b) SPACE WEATHER COMMUNICATION.—The Ad-  
25 ministrator of the Federal Aviation Administration, in

1 consultation with the heads of other relevant Federal  
2 agencies, shall develop methods to increase the interaction  
3 between the aviation community and the space weather re-  
4 search and service provider community.

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116<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
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**A BILL**

To improve understanding and forecasting of space weather events, and for other purposes.

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DECEMBER 11, 2019

Reported without amendment